



As per the 2023 American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 93.4 percent of Missouri residents aged 5 years and over spoke only English. The remaining 6.6 percent had a primary language other than English but included those fluent in English and those who had limited proficiency in English. Counties in Missouri that have the largest percentage of the population of foreign-language speakers include Sullivan (16.5%), McDonald (14.9%), Pettis (11.9%), and Pulaski (11.3%).

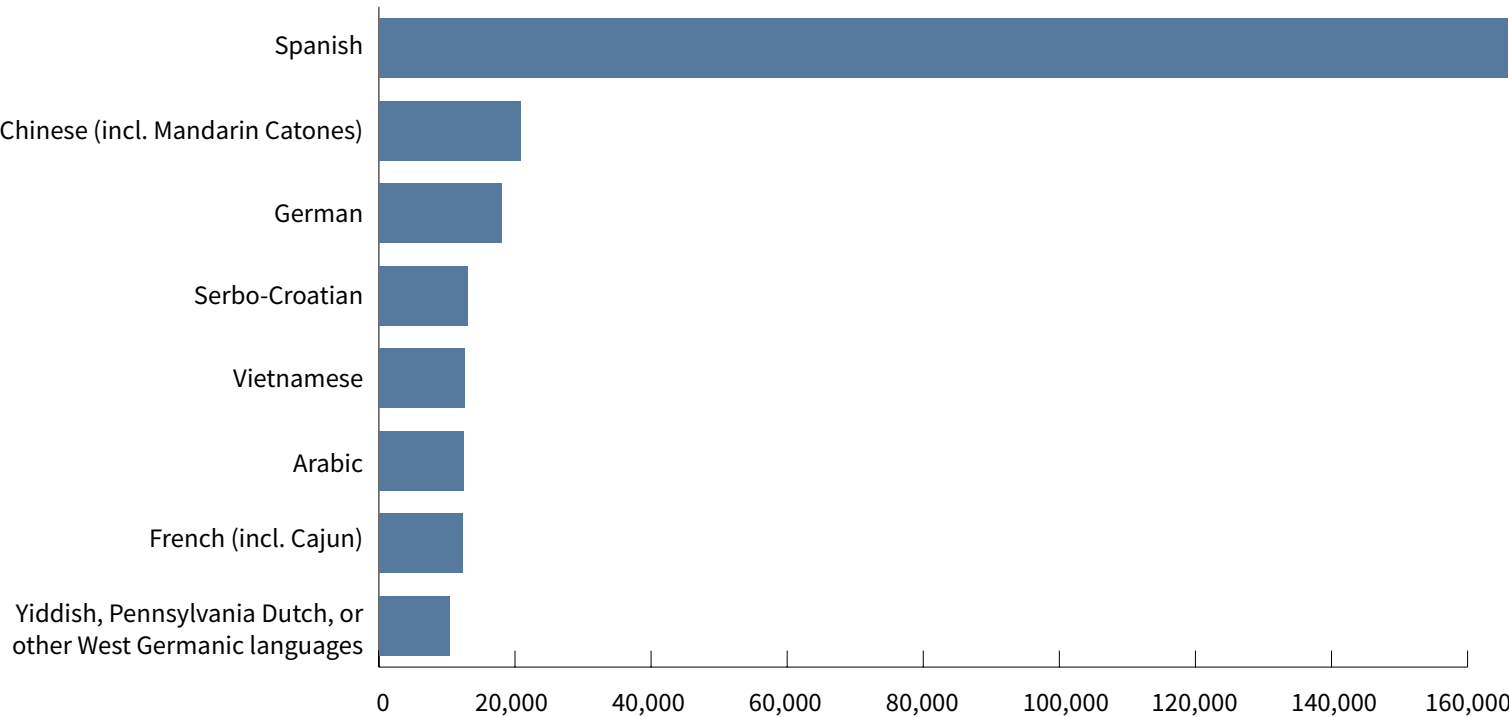
Percent of Population

- Less that 2.0%
- 2.0%-3.0%
- 3.0%-4.0%
- Over 4.0%

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The following bar graph represents languages at a more detailed level statewide. Out of more than 40 surveyed languages, eight had 10,000 or more speakers in the state, including Spanish, Chinese, German, Serbo-Croatian, Vietnamese, and Arabic.

Languages with more than 10,000 speakers in Missouri (other than English)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (2019-2023)

The most common language spoken in Missouri other than English is Spanish. Spanish speakers make up 2.9 percent of Missouri’s total population aged 5 years or older (165,840 individuals) as of 2023. Sullivan, McDonald, and Saline counties have the highest percentages of Spanish speaking residents, while Jackson County has the largest gross number of Spanish speakers.

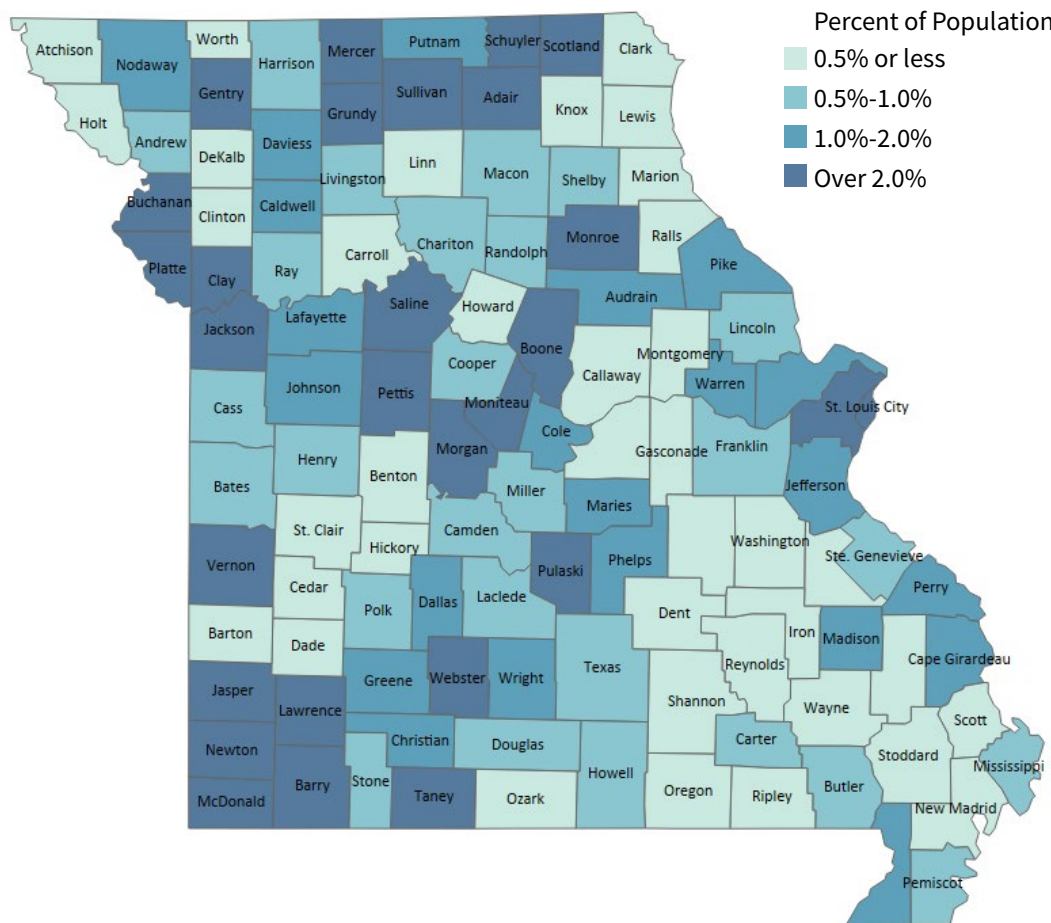
Highest Percentage of Spanish Speakers by County			
County	Population 5 years and older	Population 5 years and older who speak Spanish	Percent of Population 5 years and older who speak Spanish
Sullivan	5,546	780	14.1%
McDonald	21,969	1,985	9.0%
Saline	21,887	1,806	8.3%
Jackson	672,334	45,519	6.8%
Pettis	40,213	2,685	6.7%
Pulaski	50,235	3,250	6.5%
Barry	32,781	2,070	6.3%
Dunklin	25,941	1,636	6.3%
Jasper	115,549	6,106	5.3%
Lawrence	35,869	1,888	5.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (2019-2023)

Limited English Proficiency

According to the 2023 American Community Survey, 2.2 percent of Missouri's population aged 5 years or older have limited English proficiency. Counties in Missouri with the largest percentage of the population who have limited proficiency in English include Sullivan (8.2%), McDonald (7.6%), Pettis (5.5%), and Saline (4.9%). Spanish is most frequently spoken by those with limited English proficiency in those counties.

Population (5 yr & up)with limited English proficiency



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (2019-2023)

The following table shows a breakdown of the population (5 years and older) by county that speaks a language other than English or that has limited proficiency in English.

County	Population 5 years and older	Population 5 years and older who speak a language other than English	% Population 5 years and older with limited English proficiency	County	Population 5 years and older	Population 5 years and older who speak a language other than English	% Population 5 years and older with limited English proficiency	County	Population 5 years and older	Population 5 years and older who speak a language other than English	% Population 5 years and older with limited English proficiency
Adair	23,020	6.0%	3.3%	Grundy	8,899	5.2%	2.3%	Perry	17,678	4.0%	1.4%
Andrew	16,981	2.9%	0.8%	Harrison	7,594	1.6%	0.7%	Pettis	37,965	11.9%	5.6%
Atchison	4,967	2.3%	0.3%	Henry	20,711	2.0%	1.0%	Phelps	41,765	5.4%	1.9%
Audrain	22,761	5.4%	1.7%	Hickory	8,148	1.3%	0.1%	Pike	16,309	3.4%	1.8%
Barry	31,465	8.9%	4.0%	Holt	4,029	1.5%	0.1%	Platte	100,299	8.3%	2.1%
Barton	10,977	3.9%	0.3%	Howard	9,530	1.6%	0.4%	Polk	29,818	4.1%	1.0%
Bates	15,126	2.7%	0.5%	Howell	37,514	2.8%	0.6%	Pulaski	49,029	11.3%	2.4%
Benton	19,033	1.3%	0.2%	Iron	8,998	1.1%	0.1%	Putnam	4,332	3.6%	1.2%
Bollinger	10,008	0.3%	0.0%	Jackson	647,046	10.0%	3.8%	Ralls	9,839	1.6%	0.1%
Boone	170,329	8.8%	3.1%	Jasper	112,220	7.0%	2.9%	Randolph	22,988	2.2%	0.5%
Buchanan	76,790	6.2%	2.6%	Jefferson	213,086	3.3%	1.1%	Ray	21,735	2.1%	0.6%
Butler	39,218	2.4%	0.7%	Johnson	50,205	5.0%	1.3%	Reynolds	5,776	0.6%	0.1%
Caldwell	8,303	2.1%	1.3%	Knox	3,444	1.9%	0.4%	Ripley	10,044	1.1%	0.1%
Callaway	41,991	1.5%	0.3%	Laclede	33,595	2.9%	0.8%	St. Charles	380,954	5.5%	1.6%
Camden	41,139	3.9%	0.8%	Lafayette	30,811	3.7%	1.1%	St. Clair	8,920	1.5%	0.3%
Cape Girardeau	76,705	3.6%	1.1%	Lawrence	34,827	8.8%	2.9%	Ste. Genevieve	17,402	1.2%	0.6%
Carroll	8,010	1.0%	0.4%	Lewis	9,409	2.3%	0.4%	St. Francois	63,294	1.2%	0.2%
Carter	4,877	1.9%	0.9%	Lincoln	56,888	2.4%	1.0%	St. Louis	910,014	10.3%	3.2%
Cass	102,308	3.3%	0.8%	Linn	11,155	2.8%	0.4%	Saline	20,814	9.3%	4.9%
Cedar	13,386	2.0%	0.3%	Livingston	13,493	1.9%	0.5%	Schuyler	3,559	8.0%	4.4%
Chariton	6,899	2.9%	0.7%	McDonald	20,304	14.9%	7.6%	Scotland	4,196	10.5%	3.2%
Christian	84,102	4.7%	1.8%	Macon	14,276	3.3%	0.6%	Scott	35,466	2.6%	0.2%
Clark	6,263	2.1%	0.3%	Madison	11,823	3.3%	1.8%	Shannon	6,698	1.0%	0.4%
Clay	233,697	7.5%	2.6%	Maries	7,932	2.4%	1.2%	Shelby	5,598	1.7%	0.5%
Clinton	20,069	2.2%	0.2%	Marion	26,454	0.8%	0.3%	Stoddard	26,757	1.5%	0.3%
Cole	71,490	4.1%	1.3%	Mercer	3,148	5.4%	3.2%	Stone	30,194	2.3%	0.7%
Cooper	15,659	2.9%	0.8%	Miller	23,365	4.0%	0.9%	Sullivan	5,090	16.5%	8.2%
Crawford	21,494	1.4%	0.3%	Mississippi	11,379	1.7%	0.7%	Taney	52,121	6.8%	2.6%
Dade	7,231	1.3%	0.2%	Moniteau	13,809	10.3%	3.6%	Texas	23,455	1.9%	0.5%
Dallas	15,862	4.9%	2.0%	Monroe	7,985	3.8%	2.7%	Vernon	17,955	6.5%	3.2%
Daviess	7,752	8.5%	1.5%	Montgomery	10,721	2.0%	0.4%	Warren	34,021	3.2%	1.2%
DeKalb	10,646	3.2%	0.1%	Morgan	19,482	7.7%	2.7%	Washington	22,115	1.8%	0.3%
Dent	13,661	1.1%	0.2%	New Madrid	14,981	2.5%	0.4%	Wayne	10,440	0.9%	0.2%
Douglas	11,147	0.6%	0.5%	Newton	54,133	6.9%	3.2%	Webster	35,743	6.4%	3.5%
Dunklin	25,436	6.7%	1.9%	Nodaway	19,652	3.2%	1.3%	Worth	1,848	0.3%	0.1%
Franklin	98,778	1.8%	0.5%	Oregon	8,201	1.4%	0.0%	Wright	17114	4.2%	1.8%
Gasconade	13,977	1.4%	0.4%	Osage	12,603	0.7%	0.4%	St. Louis City	267,391	8.9%	3.1%
Gentry	5,665	5.0%	2.3%	Ozark	8,384	1.9%	0.4%	Total Statewide	5,680,178	6.6%	2.2%
Greene	279,902	5.5%	1.5%	Pemiscot	14,084	3.9%	0.6%				

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